supplies at specially sibidized prices to the people in I.T.D.P. areas and tribal majority States|Union Territories, rural employment generation programmes; nutrition programmes, etc. In addition some wheat was offered for sale to Roller Flour Mills etc. Small quantities of wheat and rice were also released for export and commodity loans, gifts etc. to other countries.

Increase in the prices of commodities being sold through fair price shops

2805. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) on how many occasions since January, 1986 the prices of foodgrains rice and wheat separately for distribution through Public Distribution System, have been enhanced through administrative order and extent of enhancement on each occasion; and

(b) the reasons therefore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the Central issue prices of wheat and rice since January, 1980 is attached. (*See* below). The issue prices are enhanced from time to time, consequent upon increases in the support prices of paddy and wheat.

Statement

Central Issue Price of Rice and Wheat

I. *RICE*

(Rate Rs. per quintal)

Effective from	Common	Fine	Superfine
1-2-1986	231.00	243.00	253.00
1-10-1986	239.00	251.00	266.00
1-10-1987	239·00	264.00	279.00
25-1-1989	244.00	304.00	325.00

II *WHEAT*

Effective from	Public Distribution System
1-2-1986	190.00
1-4-1986 . . .	190.00
16-7-1986 . . .	190.00
1-5-1987	195.00
25-3-1988	204.00

Increase in the prices of Levy Sugar

2806. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) on how many occasions since January, 1986 prices of levy sugar have been enhanced through administrative orders;

(b) extent of enhancement per kilogram on each occasion; and

(c) the price of levy sugar per kilogram year-wise during the said period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) Since January, 1986 the retail issue price of levy sugar has been increased only on three occasions, *i.e.* on 15-12-86, 1.1.88 and 1-1-89. The extent of increase on each occasion is indicated below:—

Date on which price increase was effective	Increase in retail issue price of levy sugar (Rs. per Kilogram)		
	From	To	Extent of Increase
15-12-86	4.80	4.85	0.05
1-1-88	4.85	5.10	0.25
1-1-89	5.10	5.25	0.15

Tribal student hostels in Orissa

2807. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Orissa where Tribal student hostels have been set up during 1984 to 1989;

(b) whether the Union Government have any provision for providing financial aid for setting up tribal hostels in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details of funds granted during 1984—89;

(d) whether more such hostels are proposed to be set up in Orissa during the 7th Five Year Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposed location and estimate of such hostels?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a), (d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which State Governments are provided grants on a 50:50 matching basis for construction/expansion of hostels for Scheduled Tribe girls, subject to ceilings specified per seat.

(c) From 1984-85 to 1988-89, Rs. 70.0 lakhs have been released to Orissa under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Strike by Indian Workers in Kuwait

2808. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one thousand Indian construction workers have been on strike in Kuwait because they have not been paid for the past four months; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to eliminate the sufferings of the workers and to bring them back to India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, about 1000 Indian workers recruited by two Kuwaiti companies under the same proprietor *viz.* M/s. Al Burdah Trading and Contracting Company and M/s. Al Fawares Construction and Development company, to work on a housing project in Al Quarain Area of Kuwait stopped work from third week of January, 1989 on account of non-payment of wages. The Indian Mission intervened vigorously with the Kuwaiti employer and with sub-contractors and also took up the matter wih the Government of Kuwait for a settlement of the problem. The Mission has maintained constant liaison with the representatives of the workers, management and the sub-contractors and pursuing the matter with the Government of Kuwait.